

Dear Mother,

Sund April 16th 1828 7

Vol IV

As I have an opportunity to send
by private conveyance, I will gladly spend a
few moments in conversing with my best
earthly friend. And who is that? Not my Mother, I
claim, altho I have other friends in whom I respect, and whom
I love, and by whom I am often greatly influenced. Yet when
my Mother speaks, a feeling within, more powerful con-
strains me to listen. Often, since my separation from the
paternal roof, have I recalled to mind the many periods,
when I have been the cause of grief and sorrow to my
Mother, and as often has the bitter pang of remorse, moun-
ted deep, my spirit, as memory has pointed the door of pa-
rental sadness, and wafted the notes of fervent prayer
in my behalf, of her whom I had offended. My Mother
er! I ask your forgiveness, and I may be enabled in
future, not to diminish but increase your enjoyment.
I received your letter on the 12th inst and was rejoiced
to hear from you, but was a little surprised that my
letter produced such bad effects. I did not intend
it should. As Julia says, it was the more effect of
sympathy: as I find, at times, it even serves to raise its
holder's head, and to annoy my peace, and ruffle
the calm and gentle passions. But to right this
many-headed monster must be in other clime, for
I am as free from his withering grasp, as the wild
deer on the mountain, or the eagle in the cliff:—
therefore while I write, I am in the full enjoyment of
all my natural powers.

I find College to be a dangerous place, a person has need
to be a double guard over his tongue, and even every
kind that compass his body. I have received so many
lectures on exercise from Br. that what time I can
devote to this purpose I generally employ it in the
which is as powerful as I can bear, and on this occasion
I am often associated with some who are professed
of religion, and some who are not, pursuing the
same diversions for the purpose of main taining
health and vigor, both of body and mind.
But I have received two or three lectures from those
who are considered the most exemplary. And what
is duty I hardly know. I need more wisdom, more
grace. Will my Mother pray that I may be directed
in the path of duty. I don't know that the appear-
ances of Religion are any more favorable in College, than
one would be praying souls here, and I do believe
if the itechans were removed from the camp, the Spirit
of the Lord would soon be visible in this place.
I am glad to hear Maria is so agreeably situated.
I hope she will do well. There is at present much dif-
ficulty in College, it is probable 2 or 3 will be expelled.
My health is very good, you may expect to see
me in about 7 weeks. Oh the wings of time.
Love love to all.

Ever Yours A. O. Preston

pieces of
the number
the ite

Mrs Polly Zacher
Pierpont

